

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03

LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-03

SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

OMB-01 SWF-02 FEA-02 OIC-04 DRC-01 /221 W

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R 141617Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5686

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EC, BC

SUBJ: EC-ACP KINGSTON NEGOTIATIONS: BOTSWANA VIEW

REFS: A) BRUSSELS 5757(REPEATED AS STATE 167798)

B) STATE 165829

C) STATE 171057

1. SUMMARY: GOB DELEGATE AT KINGSTON CONFERENCE GAVE EMBOFF SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS AT CONFERENCE AND SUGGESTED THAT LACK OF PROGRESS THERE WAS DELIBERATE STRATEGY ON PART OF EC BUREAUCRATS.

2. EMBOFF CALLED ON CHARLES TIBONE, OFFICIAL IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GOB TO GET HIS ASSESSMENT OF KINGSTON EC-ACP CONFER-
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ENCE.

3. TIBONE WHO WAS MEMBER GOB DELEGATION, CHARACTERIZED THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE IN FAR LESS POSITIVE TERMS THAN DID REF A. HE ASSERTED THAT NO SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AND THAT ALTHOUGH A FEW CONCESSIONS HAD BEEN GRANTED BY THE EC ON MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE THE VALUE OF THESE CONCESSIONS WOULD BE DETERMINED ONLY IN THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WHEN THE DETAILS WERE SPELLED OUT.

4. TIBONE COMMENTED THAT IN HIS VIEW THE GENERAL STRATEGY OF THE EC BUREAUCRATS WAS TO STAND FIRM AT KINGSTON WITH NO CONCRETE CONCESSIONS IN THE HOPE THAT BY DELAYING TO THE FINAL SESSION AT BRUSSELS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15 THEY COULD CRACK THE SO FAR SOLID UNITY OF THE ACP COUNTRIES. HE FEELS THAT IN PARTICULAR THE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES ARE VULNERABLE TO SUCH PRESSURE AND MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT MUCH LESS AT BRUSSELS THAN THE OTHERS BECAUSE THEY FEAR THAT THEY MIGHT LOSE ANY AGREEMENT AT ALL.

5. FOLLOWING ARE HIS COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS DISCUSSED AT KINGSTON:

A. RULES OF ORIGIN -- TIBONE SAID THAT THE EC HAD ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF VALUE ADDED (VA) BUT EMPHASIZED THEY WERE WILLING ONLY TO "NOTE" THAT THE ACP COUNTRIES HAD PROPOSED THAT THE PERCENTAGE BE 25 PERCENT.

B. NON-TARIFF BARRIERS -- THE EC HAD GIVEN NOTHING EXCEPT AN AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A "CONSULTATION PROCEDURE". HERE AGAIN ONLY PRINCIPLE WAS INVOLVED AND NO ASSURANCE OF CONCRETE CONCESSIONS.

C. AGRICULTURE AND PROCESSED PRODUCTS -- BOTSWANA HAD ATTEMPTED TO HAVE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE INSERTED REGARDING THE CURRENT EC BAN ON BEEF BUT ALL THAT WAS GAINED WAS A GENERAL STATEMENT REFERRING TO "PRODUCTS EXPORTED BY COUNTRIES WHICH PREVIOUSLY ENJOYED SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF ACCESS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM MARKET". THE CURRENT EC OFFER IS THAT THE IMPORTS OF BEEF WILL BE DUTY FREE USING A QUOTA BASED ON THE IMPORTS IN 1973 PLUS A SEVEN PERCENT ANNUAL INCREMENT FOR GROWTH. HOWEVER, EC NOTED ITS RIGHT TO IMPOSE "SAFEGUARDS". (TIBONE'S FURTHER VIEWS ON THE BEEF BAN BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

D. EXPORT EARNINGS -- TIBONE FEELS THIS WAS THE BIGGEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(ALTHOUGH STILL VERY MODEST) ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE. THE EC HAS AGREED TO IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM OF GUARANTEES FOR STABILIZING EARNINGS FROM EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY FROM PRODUCERS IN THE ACP COUNTRIES. THE PROBLEM WITH THIS ACHIEVEMENT IS THAT THE EC DID NOT AGREE ON A FORMULA TO BE USED IN THE SYSTEM, BUT ONLY CALLED FOR A SET OF "CRITERIA TO BE DESIGNED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS".

E. INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION -- THE EC RECOGNIZED THE IM-

PORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AND "HAS TAKEN NOTE" OF A MEMORANDUM ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION PRESENTED BY ACP COUNTRIES AND AN AGREEMENT TO "CONTINUE THE EVALUATION OF THIS SUBJECT AT THE NEXT MEETING IN BRUSSELS".

F. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE -- TIBONE WAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED IN THE EC OFFER OF ONLY THREE BILLION U.A. WHICH WAS DESCRIBED BY ONE OF THE ACP DELEGATES AS "MERE PEANUTS".

G. RECIPROCITY -- AGAIN THE PRINCIPLE WAS AGREED TO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CORRESPONDING COMMITMENTS REQUIRED OF THE ACP STATES, WHICH TIBONE ADMITTED WAS ANOTHER MODEST GAIN. EMBOFF TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING REVERSE PREFERENCES IN BLS STATES IN PARTICULAR.

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